

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in transmission of data packets, the data packets comprising packet headers that include priority information, the priority information identifying the data packets as high priority data packets or as low priority data packets, the method comprising:

transmitting the data packets via at least one of a first transmission ~~facility~~ medium and a second transmission ~~facility~~ medium, the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium being redundant to ~~first~~ the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium, the data packets being transmitted in accordance with Internet Protocol (IP);

wherein transmitting the data packets comprises:

identifying which of the data packets are low priority data packets and which of the data packets are high priority data packets based on the priority information;

transmitting the high priority data packets via the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium;

transmitting the low priority data packets via the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium;

switching transmission of the high priority data packets from the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium to the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium if there is a problem with on the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium; and

discarding low priority packets when high priority packets are transmitted via the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority information is in a TOS field of at least some of the packet headers.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to switching, only low priority packets are transmitted via the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
allocating high priority data packets and low priority data packets for transmission via the first and second transmission ~~facilities~~ media based on predetermined utilizations of the first and second transmission media ~~facilities~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second transmission media ~~facilities~~ comprise junction lines.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the problem comprises a fault that affects data packet transmission via the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second transmission media ~~facilities~~ are associated with first and second queues, respectively; and wherein the predetermined utilizations of the first and second transmission media ~~facilities~~ correspond to fill levels of the first and second queues, respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for use in transmission of data packets, the data packets comprising packet headers that include priority information, the priority information identifying the data packets as high priority data packets or as low priority data packets, the system comprising:

a filter to receive the data packets, the filter being configured to identify which of the data packets are low priority data packets and which of the data packets are high priority data packets based on the priority information, and to output the data packets;

a first queue to receive high priority data packets output by the filter;

a second queue to receive low priority data packets output by the filter; and

a switch configured to

direct the high priority data packets from the first queue to a first transmission ~~facility~~ medium;

direct the low priority data packets from the second queue to a second transmission ~~facility~~ medium, the second transmission medium being ~~redundant to~~ the first transmission medium;

re-direct the high priority data packets from the first queue to the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium if there is a problem ~~with~~ on the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium; and

discard low priority packets after high priority packets are re-directed to the second transmission ~~facility~~ medium.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the priority information is in a TOS field of at least some of the packet headers.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the first and second transmission media ~~facilities~~ comprise junction lines.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the problem comprises a fault that affects data packet transmission via the first transmission ~~facility~~ medium.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the first and second queues comprise first and second buffers, respectively.

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14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the data packets are transmitted in accordance with Internet Protocol (IP).